

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY AF/C:RRSTRAND:OSM

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 170930

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN, ENRG, EAID, CG

SUBJECT: GOZ REQUEST FOR HELP ON POL

REFS: KINSHASA 6690; STATE 170881

1. AFTER RECEIPT KINSHASA 6690 JULY 20, DEPTOFF PHONED WILLIAMS OF MOBIL TO PASS ON GIST OF VANCE-MOBUTU DISCUSSION AND FIND OUT WITH WHOM IN OTHER COMPANIES MOBIL HAD DISCUSSED GOZ REQUEST. WILLIAMS GAVE NORMAN GRAY AS CONTACT IN GULF NEW YORK OFFICE BUT SAID THERE HAD BEEN NO CONTACT YET WITH TEXACO. IT HAD BEEN MOBIL'S INTENTION, HE SAID, TO SOUND OUT TEXACO IF, AFTER WILLIAMS' DISCUSSIONS IN KINSHASA, DEAL INVOLVING SETTLEMENT OF COMPENSATION CLAIM SEEMED FEASIBLE. CONTACT WITH GULF HAS NOT GONE BEYOND PRELIMINARY SOUNDING, WITH NO DISCUSSION YET OF WHAT SHAPE A POSSIBLE COOPERATIVE EFFORT AMONG COMPANIES MIGHT TAKE. MOBIL HAS CONCENTRATED TO DATE ON EXPLORING POSSIBLE FINANCING ARRANGEMENTS WITH BANKS.

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2. WILLIAMS CONFIRMED HIS PLAN DEPART US FOR AFRICA

JULY 20 PM, VISITING NIGERIA FIRST AND ARRIVING IN
KINSHASA JULY 25. PETROZAIRE IS INFORMED, AND AMB. VANCE
MAYAT HIS DISCRETION, ADVISE MOBUTU. WILLIAMS SAID

ONE QUESTION HE WOULD BE EXPLORING WOULD BE WHETHER AND,
IF SO, TO WHAT EXTENT ZAIRE HAS ALREADY MORTGAGED
ITS SHARE OF GULF PRODUCTION. WILLIAMS ASKED EXPLICITLY
THAT MOBIL'S INTEREST/CONCERN THIS POINT NOT BE
MENTIONED TO GOZ. HE HAS HAD ONE SECOND- OR THIRD-HAND
REPORT, WHICH HE PRESUMES ORIGINATED WITH GULF, THAT
SOME MORTGAGING HAS TAKEN PLACE, BUT HE HAS NOT BEEN
ABLE TO VERIFY THIS.

3. DEPT WILL TRY TO CONTACT GRAY OF GULF AND POUPEAU
OR MINOR OF TEXACO JUNE 21 AND WILL REPORT RESULTS.
SINCE GULF ZAIRE OPERATION IS RUN OUT OF LONDON OFFICE,
EMBASSY MAY BE ABLE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT GULF'S THINKING
FROM KING THAN WE CAN HERE. KISSINGER

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